

REMARKS

Claims 21-23 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21-23 stand rejected for obviousness over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,062,010 to Saito in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,429 to Suzuki et al. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 is directed to a video recording device comprising a first audio source comprising a microphone configured to supply a first audio signal from the microphone onto a storage device. The recording device further includes a second, built-in audio source separate from the first audio source and configured to supply a second audio signal from a prerecorded audio device not recorded by the microphone onto the storage device. The second audio device can be a radio, a cassette tape device, a compact disc device, or a digital audio device such that the second audio device can supply an unlimited selection of second audio signals to the storage device. The recording device further includes a video recording assembly including a video camera in electronic communication with a video recording head and an audio assembly including the first and second audio sources in electronic communication with an audio recording head. An audio activation switch is in electronic communication with the second audio source. A record button is in electronic communication with the video and audio assemblies. The recording device is configured such that when the audio activation switch is energized, activation of the record button simultaneously activates the second audio source and the recording assembly to simultaneously record a video signal and a prerecorded audio signal from the second audio source onto the storage device.

Saito is directed to an electronic still camera with an image pick-up system 100 that sends a video signal to a video head 304 to be applied to a magnetic disk 302. Saito also includes an audio receiving system 200 having a microphone 202 that can pick up ambient sound and send the sound signal to a memory 206 and from there to an audio head 306 to be recorded onto the magnetic disk 302. Thus, in Saito, the audio signal sent to the audio head is that picked up by or recorded by the microphone 202.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner notes that Saito does not specifically disclose a second, built-in audio source separate from the first audio source and configured to supply a second audio signal from a prerecorded audio device not recorded by the microphone onto the storage device, with the second audio source selected from a radio, a cassette tape device, a compact disc device, or a digital audio device as in the claimed invention. However, the Examiner relies upon Suzuki for this teaching.

As the Examiner notes on page 4 of the Office Action, Suzuki teaches a video camera in which external storage devices 9a and 9b are removably attachable to connecting parts 10a and 10b of the camera (Suzuki at column 4, lines 59-61 and Fig. 1). However, as is clear from Suzuki, both the storage devices 9a and 9b are external storage devices removably attached to the camera. Thus, the storage devices 9a and 9b are only connected to the camera when it is desired to transfer data from one of the external storage devices into the camera. The external storage devices are then removed from the camera until needed again. Thus, Suzuki clearly does not teach the camera of present claim 21 (and shown in Fig. 17) in which the second audio source 92 is built-in to the video recording device itself. Neither Saito nor Suzuki, either alone or in combination, fairly teaches or suggests this limitation. If one were to combine Saito and Suzuki, one would simply end up with the Saito still camera having connectors to which separate, external storage devices could be attached as needed and then removed from the camera. The claimed invention having a built-in second audio source provides a video camera of a more compact and easy to use design compared to the Suzuki device in which separate, external storage devices would have to be plugged in to the camera which could make the camera difficult to carry and/or use. Therefore, claim 21 is not believed obvious in view of the Saito and Suzuki combination. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and are believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 21.

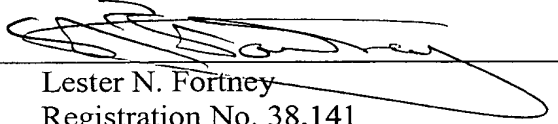
Application No. 09/162,645
Paper Dated: February 28, 2005
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of August 26, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 2392-981478

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 21-23 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 
Lester N. Fortney
Registration No. 38,141
Attorney for Applicant
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com